

*Air Balloon, or  
The Magical Companion.*



*Breslows Last Legacy.*

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The Magical Companion.*



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**B R E S L A W ;  
LAST LEGACY ;**

**O R,  
The Magical Companion :**

**CONTAINING  
All that is Curious, Pleasing, Enter-  
taining, and Comical ;**

**SELECTED  
From the most celebrated Masters of Deception ;  
As well with SLIGHT of HAND,  
As with MATHEMATICAL INVENTIONS.**

Wherein is displayed,  
The Mode and Manner of deceiving the Eye,  
as practised by those celebrated Masters of  
Mirthful Deceptions.

Including the various Exhibitions of those wonderful Artists,  
**BRESLAW, SIEUR COMUS, JONAS, &c.**

**ALSO THE .  
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Palmistry, &c.. with a Selection of Songs, Jestis,  
Riddles, Epigrams, and Bon Mots.**

The Whole forming  
**A BOOK of real KNOWLEDGE in the  
Art of CONJURATION.**

With an accurate Description of the Method how to make  
**The AIR BALLOON**  
**AND INJECT THE  
INFLAMMABLE AIR.**

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**THE SECOND EDITION,**  
With great *Additions and Improvements.*

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**LONDON:** Printed for T. MOORE,  
No. 33, Pater-noster-Row, 1784.



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## DEDICATION.

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T O

SIR ASHTON LEVER, Knt.

S I R,

**I** FLATTER myself you will readily excuse the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you on this public occasion. Your well-known character as a man of virtue, your indefatigable industry in collecting whatever is rare and curious, in art or nature, has fixed your name high with the most learned and ingenious of the present age.

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As

As a person of such a turn of mind and extraordinary abilities must be supposed to possess a regard for every thing that is curious and entertaining; the Editor of this work has presumed to lay his labours before you, with some sort of confidence, that you will, at least, treat it with kindness.

Books of this kind, it must be acknowledged, are too generally looked upon as calculated merely for the lower class of people; to amuse the ignorant, to make children laugh, with the tricks of Hocus Pocus and Legerdemain: but, Sir, as you are well convinced that many useful inventions in the mathematics have owed their rise to some of these fanciful exhibitions, it is not doubted but you will look upon this selection in a better light.

To

DEDICATION. V

To amuse and instruct is no easy task ; yet you have performed it, difficult as it is, with great success ; your Museum will be an everlasting pyramid to your honour ; and your name will be respectable with all real connoisseurs, to the remotest period of time.

Flattery I despise, as much as I know a man of your understanding must ; I therefore only beg the honour of your acceptance of this trifle, and doubt not but you will peruse it with candour. I am,

S I R,

Your profound admirer,

and humble servant,

The EDITOR.

P R E-



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## P R E F A C E.

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**A**S the world is too apt to judge from appearances, and be prejudiced at first sight, so, from the title of a book, they generally judge of its contents ; and as their taste for knowledge is to applaud or condemn, (perhaps without examining the contents) those of a more serious cast will give no countenance to this book, merely from what they fancy it must  
con-

contain, without taking the trouble to read it. To such prejudiced persons this preface, perhaps, may be of service, to correct their opinions, and put them right with respect to its real merits. It does not, by any means, recommend or encourage vice and idleness. The design of it is, to amuse, instruct, and promote innocent diversions; to relieve, and give new vigour to the mind. This must surely be admitted by the most rigid, unless their ideas are too sublime for this lower world. Besides, the knowledge which this book conveys will wipe off many ill-grounded notions which ignorant people have imbibed. Some imagine that many deceptions cannot be performed without the assistance of the gentleman of the cloven foot, long since distinguished by

by the appellation of Old Nick, from whence the original of this amusing science gained the name of the Black Art. Indeed, some ages back, when learning was confined to a few, self-interested and designing persons pretended to enchantment, and to hold intelligence with supernatural beings, and by their skill in chemistry and mathematics, so worked upon the senses, that many were brought to believe in conjuration.

Every thing in this book has its rise from nature ; consequently it is by no means criminal, and therefore may be recommended rather than exploded. Besides, it may be a guide to the artless not to be trifled by those who are capable of these deceptions ; for, knowing how they may  
be

be done, they will not be liable to be imposed on. To perform slight of hand well is a very difficult task, and what, though many pretend to, few are excellent in. It requires a good presence, a quick eye, a nimble hand, and no small share of volubility; for not a little depends on amusing the attention with some strange story or hard words while the tricks are performing; therefore any one, with a little practice, may, in a short time, amuse himself and friends by these agreeable, harmless, and whimsical diversions.

This book will give you a short and entertaining account of the planets, and their supposed influence on the world, with their names as distinguished by astronomers in the celestial

X P R E F A C E, &c.

lestial globe. The other parts will afford sufficient matter for mirth and speculation ; so that the whole will form a complete companion for a leisure hour ; and, I doubt not, will be acceptable to all readers both in town and country.

*BRESLAW's*



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B R E S L A W's

LAST LEGACY, &c.

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C H A P. I.

*Containing a Description of the AIR BALLOON, with the Method how to make one, as hath lately been done both in France and England. The Twelve Signs of the Zodiac, &c.*

**T**HE AIR BALLOON, which hath been lately so much the topic of conversation, and so much astonished the gaping multitude, hath nothing so very wonderful in it as may, by some, be imagined. The idea of it, at first, was, no doubt, taken from children blowing bladders

ders with soap-suds and a tobacco-pipe; which bubbles will ascend till some rude touch breaks their texture. The Air Balloon is, in effect, little more; and the manner of making it (the size of which may be greater or less, according to your own discretion) is as follows: Take a piece of taffata, or thin silk (on account of their lightness) and sew it into the form intended; leaving a small orifice for the admission of the inflammable air. The taffata, or silk, with all the seams, must be strongly gummed several times over, in order effectually to keep out the common air, and prevent the artificial air from transpiring. Its most proper form should be orbicular or round, as it will not only ascend the higher but the steadier, the atmosphere air surrounding it with more force, and impelling it with greater certainty.

When your Balloon is thoroughly compleated with respect to its form, you must then fill it with inflammable air, the manner of doing which is as follows:

Take

Take a glass bottle, or vessel, whatever size you may want, put into it a quantity of oil of vitriol, with some iron filings or old nails ; then pour on it some clear water, and it will soon begin to ferment ; and, if not prevented by stopping it close, ascend in smoke to a great height. This air must be conveyed into the Balloon, by means of a glass tube or crane, which must be well secured at each end, and as the fermentation encreases, the Balloon will fill. When you have got a sufficiency of the air, you must draw the neck tight with a string fixed on purpose, and from this moment it becomes so much a lighter body that it would immediately ascend, if not restrained by a proportionate balance. Before you begin to inject the inflammable air, make the parts again secure with gum, or some other glutinous composition ; and after all, you may, if you think proper, gild over the whole. This, when unconfined, will float in the air for a long time, and continually do so until the inflammable air finds

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a vent,

a vent, when it will gradually descend.

The Air Balloon, constructed by Mr. Biaggini, and lately let off in the Artillery-ground, Moorfields, was ten feet diameter, and went to a surprising height, to the great astonishment of some thousands of spectators; but they may be made as small as you please, and will float about in a room, and serve as a pleasant amusement.

Mr. Biaggini has since made another Air Balloon sixteen feet in diameter, which he has, for some time, exhibited at the Pantheon in Oxford street, and which, it is said, he intends soon to let off in the Artillery-ground, in order, a second time, to gratify the curiosity of the public.

With respect to the rate at which these Balloons pass in the air, it is conjectured (from the average calculation of experiments which have been made) to be not less than fifteen miles an hour, without allowing for the obstructions it is subject to meet with from the shiftings of the wind.

Such is the description of the famous

nous Air Balloon, which has so much attracted the attention of the curious both in France and in England; and which, though at present only a matter of mere curiosity, may in time be so improved as to become a matter of public utility.

As a farther illustration of the nature of the Air Balloon, and the improvements it hath entirely received, it may not be improper to subjoin an account of that lately let off in France, the particulars of which were sent by a gentleman in Paris, to Dr. Letsom in London, and which are as follow :

“ On Monday, the 1st of December 1783, an Air Balloon, under the direction of Messrs. Charles and Roberts, was let off from the Thuilleries. It had suspended to it a basket, covered with blue silk and paper finely gilt, in the shape of a triumphal car, in which Mr. Charles and Mr. Roberts embarked, and mounted up into the air, amidst many thousands of people of all ranks and conditions, among whom were



several foreign princes, and great numbers of the nobility of France. The philosophers had flags with them of different colours, with which, as they mounted aloft, they saluted the admiring world below. When they came to the height at which they meant to go (which was computed to be about twice the height of St. Paul's, London) they threw down a flag as agreed. They then glided along a steady horizontal track over the Faubourg St. Honore, saluting the people, as they went along, with their flags; and landed at about 20 miles distance from the place they set out from, being followed by the Duke de Chartres, and several of the French and English nobility and gentry, who came in almost at their landing. Mr. Roberts then got out, when Mr. Charles, after throwing out some ballast to lighten the machine, ascended alone in the Balloon to the almost incredible height of 15026 toises, or 3052 yards perpendicular, in about ten minutes.

“ The account Mr. Charles gives  
of

of his observations during this time (which is published in the Journal of to-day) is, that he lost sight of every thing below upon earth, and saw nothing but a wide expanse of fine æther--that the Barometer fell from 28 to 18, and the Thermometer from 7 above freezing to 5 below it. He descended about four or five miles from the spot he got up, near the house of a Mr. Farrar, an English gentleman, where he slept that night, and was brought to town by a nobleman in his own carriage the next day, amidst the general acclamations of the Public.

“ The Balloon was composed of red and straw - coloured taffata, pieced alternately, so as to appear like meridional lines upon a terrestrial globe. The upper hemisphere was covered with a netting, surrounded at the bottom by a hoop, to which the car was suspended; so that the elastic pressure of the inflammable air was equally repressed by all the meshes of the net above.”

Having thus given an accurate and ample description of the Air Balloon, with the proper method of making it, we shall now proceed to give some account of the power of the planets; as described by the most learned and ingenious astronomers. As it is generally believed that the planets have some influence over human bodies, it is necessary to shew what their ascendancies are over them, according to what planet ruled at their birth. In order to this, we shall first take notice of the names of the Twelve Signs in the Zodiac, which are as follow :

One,	<i>Aries</i>
Two,	<i>Taurus</i>
Three,	<i>Gemini</i>
Four,	<i>Cancer</i>
Five,	<i>Leo</i>
Six,	<i>Virgo</i>
Seven,	<i>Libra</i>
Eight,	<i>Scorpio</i>
Nine,	<i>Sagittarius</i>
Ten,	<i>Capricorn</i>
Eleven,	<i>Aquarius</i>
Twelve,	<i>Pisces</i>

These

These signs are represented in the celestial globe by the following figures:

<i>Aries,</i>	The Ram
<i>Taurus,</i>	The Bull
<i>Gemini,</i>	The Twins
<i>Cancer,</i>	The Crab
<i>Leo,</i>	The Lion
<i>Virgo,</i>	The Virgin
<i>Libra,</i>	The Scales
<i>Scorpio,</i>	The Scorpion
<i>Sagittarius,</i>	The Archer
<i>Capricorn,</i>	The Sea Goat
<i>Aquarius,</i>	The Water Pot
<i>Pisces,</i>	The Fisher

These signs are placed round the Zodiac in form of a girdle; but we will describe more fully the order in which they stand, and in what manner they follow each other.

The Ram, the Bull, the Heav'nly Twins,  
And next the Crab and Lion shines;  
The Virgin, and the Scales,  
The Scorpion, Archer, and Sea Goat,  
The Man that holds the Water Pot,  
And Fish with glittering Tails.

Having thus given a description of the signs, we shall mention the planets

nets which govern the seven days of the week.

First,	<i>The Sun</i>
Second,	<i>The Moon</i>
Third,	<i>Mars</i>
Fourth,	<i>Mercury</i>
Fifth,	<i>Jupiter</i>
Sixth,	<i>Venus</i>
Seventh,	<i>Saturn</i>

The planets govern as follows :

<i>The Sun,</i>	Sunday
<i>The Moon,</i>	Monday
<i>Mars,</i>	Tuesday
<i>Mercury,</i>	Wednesday
<i>Jupiter,</i>	Thursday
<i>Venus,</i>	Friday
<i>Saturn,</i>	Saturday

These govern the days, and the signs govern the months.

<i>Aries,</i>	March
<i>Taurus,</i>	April
<i>Gemini,</i>	May
<i>Cancer,</i>	June
<i>Leo,</i>	July
<i>Virgo,</i>	August

*Libra,*



<i>Libra,</i>	September
<i>Scorpio,</i>	October
<i>Sagittarius,</i>	November
<i>Capricorn,</i>	December
<i>Aquarius,</i>	January
<i>Pisces,</i>	February

And now it will not be amiss to give some account of the nature and disposition of such persons who are born under the above signs.

Those who are born under *Aries*, (that is in March) will be very active, and of a strong memory; fond of going up hills, and high places; wantonly inclined, and very merry, and not a little addicted to passion; if born of a Tuesday, they will be great fighters, as that day is governed by *Mars*.

Those who are born under *Taurus* (that is in April) will be strong in the head; have commonly thick necks and broad shoulders; will be great eaters; liable to receive hurts in their heads and legs, and are seldom long lived.

Those born under *Gemini*, (that is May) are mostly slender and delicate, subject to sickness, are of a mild disposition, and capable of true love and  
fin-

sincere friendship ; but seldom live to be old ; if born on a Sunday it promises they will be rich.

Those born under *Cancer*, (that is June) are inclined to be short and corpulent, have a jumping gait when they walk, are fond of the water, subject to eruptions and chronic disorders ; and are generally very vicious in love.

Those born under *Leo* (that is July) will be bold and enterprising ; likely to receive honours ; are of a noble and generous disposition ; have a great share of understanding, and are particularly happy in their friends.

Those who are born under *Virgo*, (that is August) are of a sly and artful disposition ; have little share of sense or address, and generally live single.

Those born under *Libra* (which is September) are of a delicate constitution ; sensible ; rather hasty ; admired by the women ; and prosperous thro' life.

Those who are born under *Scorpio*, (that is October) are spiteful and passionate, have good sense, but are deceitful in friendship ; are much given

o women, but seldom happy in their connections; are like to have many children; impose on others; and often get imposed on themselves; and very impatient under affliction.

Those who are born under *Sagittarius*, (that is November) will be meek, wise, and discreet; rather grave than gay, and fond of retirement. They are sincere in love and friendship; often marry very young, but have few children; meet with many crosses in life; but commonly end their days in happiness.

Those born under *Capricorn*, (that is December) will be great travellers, and go by sea to distant countries, be subject to many dangers, but will surmount them, and become wealthy and eminent.

Those born under *Aquarius*, (that is January) are usually of a sweet and affable temper, and will be happy in great possessions; are kind to their friends; good-natured, agreeable and handsome, and very liberal in their favours: blest in their loves, have many children, and live to a great age.

Those

Those under *Pisces*, (that is February) will get wealth by trade, and merchandize abroad ; are subject to cold disorders, and are of a phlegmatic constitution ; live happy in the married state, and have many children, generally sons, who succeed to their father's wealth and possessions.

Thus much for prognostication of the signs and planets ; by which any one may guess at the dispositions and tempers of those to whom they pay their addresses, if they can learn the month in which the party was born. But as this book is to consist of a variety of subjects, we shall say no more on this, but proceed to other matters, equally curious and entertaining.

## C H A P. II.

*Containing many clever Tricks, and  
pleasant Fancies, in the Art of Le-  
gerdemain.*

*To make Sport, and cause Mirth with  
Quick-silver.*

**T**HIS volatile mineral will afford many curious experiments, none of which are more pleasing than the following: Boil an egg, and while it is hot make a small hole at one end, then put in a little quick-silver, seal up the hole with sealing wax, and then leave it on a table, or any where else, when it will not cease to fly about while there is any warmth in it, or till it is broken in pieces.

*Another Trick with Quick-silver.*

AN old woman on a Sunday was making dumplings, when two of her grandsons came to see her, and being merrily inclined, while her back was turned, conveyed some quick-silver into the dough, and then took their leave. The old woman left the cooking to the care of her granddaughter, and went herself to church, charging her to be careful, and skim the pot, in which was to be boiled the dumplings and a leg of mutton; the girl was very careful to watch when the pot boiled, when taking off the cover, out jumped a dumpling, which she instantly put in again, when out flew another, and another after that, which so terrified the girl, that she ran with all speed to the church: the old woman seeing her come in, held up her hand, shook her head, winked at her, as much as to say, begone; at last the girl cried out, before all the congregation, “ All  
“ your



“ your nodding and winking does  
 “ not signify, for the leg of mutton  
 “ has beat the dumplings out of the  
 “ pot.” This caused much laughing ; and her two grandsons, being then on their knees, saw plainly the pleasing effect of their experiment : but to play tricks with quick-silver should be done with great care, as it is very dangerous.

*To make a Six-pence seem to fall  
 through a Table.*

TO perform this trick you must have a handkerchief with a counter, the same size as a six-pence, sewed in one corner of it ; take your handkerchief out of your pocket, and ask one of the company to lend you six-pence, which you must seem carefully to wrap up in the midst of the handkerchief ; but, at the same time, keep the six-pence in the palm of your hand, and in its stead, wrap the corner that is sewed into the middle of the handkerchief, and bid them feel,

and they will believe the six-pence is there which they had lent you ; then lay it under a hat upon the table, take a glass or tea cup in that hand the six-pence is in, and hold under the table ; and, to carry on the deception, knock upon the table three times, making use of such words as “ Vad, “ come quickly, Presto ;” at the same time, letting the six-pence drop from your hand into the glass ; taking up the handkerchief and shaking it, take care to hold it by the corner the counter is in : this trick, however easy to perform, seems strange, if done without bungling.

### *The Visible Invisible.*

VARIOUS are the tricks and fancies made use of to amuse and surprise the nimble-fingered gentry, who exhibit for a livelihood, and gain a comfortable subsistence from their gaping audiences.

The astonishment of the spectators encreases as their senses are imposed  
upon :

upon: in fact, they themselves (though they do not know it) assist the deceit; for, being more attentive to the trick than to the performer of it, they cannot see or comprehend how it is done; when, were they acquainted with the manner, a little practice would make them capable of doing the same.

But as people will be amused by some means or other, according to their different dispositions, so those who practise these diversions are in the right to vary their scenes as much as they can, and as often as possible introduce something new. Novelty has a charm the most attractive imaginable; yet they should be careful, in these attempts, not to promise too much, and well consider that what they have to offer will bear the test of scrutiny, lest they become the scoff and ridicule of their auditors, instead of their admiration.

A certain gentleman, well known for his talents in the deceptive arts, a few years back, brought together a

great number of genteel people at the Lebeck's Head, in the Strand.

His bills set forth a wonderful new discovery, which was to surprize and astonish all the beholders; and he called it the Visible Invisible: his apparatus was a large looking-glass, on which was displayed a variety of devices, and some very pretty verses, descriptive and applicable to his design: this was handed round the company, who having read it very plainly, he took his handkerchief and wiped it all out, and the glass appeared without the least mark whatever; but on his desiring any one to breathe upon it, the writing and characters became as visible as ever.

This was really astonishing to many present; but some gentlemen, being well acquainted with the manner it was done, and knowing it was too trifling to pay half a-crown for so simple a thing, declared against the imposition, and undeceived the audience, by shewing the deception was nothing more than French chalk; this set the whole place in an uproar,  
and

and vengeance was declared against the performer, who, with the utmost precipitation, was endeavouring to make his escape out of the window to avoid their fury ; but being prevented, he was brought back to the audience, where, having asked pardon on his knees, and returning the money, he afterwards told them, and told them truly, if he had got off with the money, he should have been *invisible* ; but, as it was, he was *visible* ; after breaking his glass, he was suffered to depart.

The French chalk is a compound of a greasy but extraordinary nature, and has been often made use of to draw portraits upon looking-glasses, when the picture may be visible or invisible, as the possessor thinks proper, only by breathing or wiping of it, and it will continue so for many months.

Mr. Conjuror declared he gave five guineas for the secret, and it must be confessed he bought the bargain.



*To fasten a Ring or a Six-pence at the End of a Piece of common Thread, and after burning the Thread, to leave the Ring hanging at the End of it.*

THERE are many ways to deceive the eye, which are not easily comprehended; and, till they come to be explained, cannot be accounted for.

More deceptions are performed at such a distance from the audience, as they cannot (however quick-sighted) penetrate into the mystery; and when they are brought so near as to be examined, even by the touch, and yet to remain in the dark, the wonder becomes greater. The trick I am going to relate is one of the last mentioned sort, and has puzzled many of the most learned in those matters for several years.

A Palatine girl used to make a comfortable livelihood, and even supported her parents, by going from public-house



house to public-house, and exhibiting the following device :

She tied a ring or six-pence to the end of a piece of thread, which was suspended from a pin, placed for that purpose, and let any one set fire to the thread, which, to all appearance, was burnt to ashes, and yet the ring remained hanging to the end of it. This was eagerly sought after by all the great masters in the legerdemain art, but without success; the moment they made the experiment, and the thread was burnt, the ring fell to the ground; they were confounded; and the more they tried the more they were at a loss.

Many offered to purchase the secret from the girl, but she remained inflexible: she rightly considered that a trifling sum for the present would deprive her of her future livelihood; but fate, at last, contrived against her fortune. She was taken ill, and being destitute of even the common necessities of life, was prevailed upon to communicate the whole of her art to the celebrated Mr. *Jonas*, who generously

rously rewarded her with half a guinea.

This trick, which really is surprising, is done by the most simple means imaginable; all the art lies in preparing the thread, which is done as follows: she used to soak the thread in salt and water for some time, and then dry it before the fire; the saline particles adhering to the thread, though imperceptible, immediately caught the flame of the candle, and burnt like so much tow, yet, though it seemed to burn, it really preserved the body of the thread, which remained firm and undiminished; yet, when touched, it became pulverised, and crumbled to ashes: thus from the most simple things, the most astonishing performances are exhibited. It is left to those most conversant in chymistry to investigate the nature of salt, and shew why it should act in such a manner as before described. Perhaps, if the curious were to search with care, many more extraordinary experiments might be made, not only to amuse the sight, but to instruct and im-

improve the mind, and become an universal benefit to the world in general.

*The learned little Swan, one of Mr.  
BRESLAW'S Grand Deceptions.*

DECEPTIONS in the mathematics are generally the most surprising, and strike the fancy in an astonishing manner ; these, though most of them are commonly known, never fail to secure applause.

Mr. Breslaw has been uncommonly successful in this way. Whether he gained his knowledge by dint of application and study, an acquaintance with science, or whether he has collected them from different masters in the same art, is not for me to determine ; it is sufficient to say, that his skill has met with reward, as well as praise.—Not that such things are of any real service to the community, or are to be recommended as necessary qualifications to complete an education, yet there can be no manner of harm

harm in being acquainted with them. Real science lifts its eye to nobler pursuits, yet it may not be amiss to relax sometimes with curious trifles. This fancy I am going to relate is one of the principal of the kind.—A large marble or china bowl is painted with-  
inside the rim, with the letters contained in the alphabet.—A small artificial swan is set to swim in the centre of the water it contains—the performer bids any one call for a letter ; upon naming the letter, the swan quits its station in the middle, and goes directly to the letter mentioned ; or, if it is desired, will pick out the whole of what composes your name. This, no doubt, is looked upon with astonishment ! to think that a thing inanimate, made of a bit of painted cork, should be capable of such things.

But this amazement will vanish, when it is known, that a small steel or iron pin is fixed within side the swan, and that the performer has a magnet in his pocket, by which means, as he moves round the table, it attracts the  
swan

swan to every letter where it is wanted to stop at, till it forms the name of whatever is required.

The nature of the magnet being known, many curious experiments have been made with it ; a knife or any other piece of iron touched with the load-stone, will bring up nails or needles out of a pail of water, or by rubbing round the outside on the bottom of a pewter plate, will cause needles, or any thing made of iron or steel, to dance, and move about just as you direct it on the out-side.—The performer, secure as he thought himself in this device, was a little disconcerted one evening in the Hay-market.---The late Sir Francis Blake Delaval, going to see his exhibition, took a magnet in his pocket, and facing Mr. Breslaw on the opposite side the table, the swan between the two attractive instruments became fixed in the middle ; the artist perceiving he could not perform as usual, exclaimed there was somebody in the room was in the secret, and

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who



who counteracted his intention. Sir Francis smiled, shewed his magnet, and the trick became no longer wonderful, and the audience were no longer amazed at his abilities; so that he was obliged to seek for fresh matter to supply the place of his little figret.

Strange stories are related of the virtues and powers of the load-stone, one of which we shall relate for its singularity.

A gentleman travelling in foreign parts, happened to be benighted, far from any place of accommodation; to avoid the dreariness of the night, in a strange place, he thought it adviseable to seek for some shelter, and having discovered a cave, he dismounted his horse, whom he fastened by the bridle on the outside of the cave, and then went in and laid himself down in his cloaths, and being much fatigued fell fast a-sleep, nor did he awake till the day-light appeared, when, to his great astonishment, he found himself suspended by the heels from the roof of  
the



the cave. He made many efforts to free himself from so disagreeable a situation, when at length he shuffled his legs out of his boots, and came to the ground almost stunned with the fall ; when looking up, he perceived the cause of this disaster was owing to the cave being formed out of a rock of loadstone, and he having steel spurs on, was attracted up in the manner described ; some say the boots are hanging there yet ; others seriously relate, that the coffin of Mahomet, which is iron, is suspended in the temple of Mecca between two loadstones, and seems to hang only in air, which the bigotted musselmen look upon as a miracle.

*To take a Bird out of a Cage, and make it appear as dead, or to roll it about as you please.*

THOSE of moderate understandings are easiest to be deceived, as the great Lord Chesterfield observes in his letters to his son, “ mankind are ea-

“ fier deceived than undeceived:” and if it was not so, half the jugglers would want employment, and the multitude would not croud so often to see their wonders ! wonders ! and wonders ! as performed, and puffed away by that great philosopher Katterfelto, and his black cat, and others of the same class ; but as those who have money are willing to accommodate those who have none, others have art enough to conjure it out of their pockets ; the world will be always supplied with some of both sorts, and it is no matter how, so that money does but circulate ; and tricks of the most simple kind will often attract the notice of the croud, who throw away their sixpences, shillings, and half-crowns, for the benefit of those who want.

This trick is one of that sort which wants no great skill in performing, yet has gained no little share of applause both in town and country.

Take any bird out of a cage, and lay it on the table, then take a small feather, and wave over its eyes, and it will immediately appear as dead, but

by

by taking the feather away it will revive again ; let it lay hold of the stem part of the feather with its feet, and it will twist and turn about like a parrot ; you may likewise roll it about on the table just as you please : that the feather is the cause of all this strange appearance is without doubt, but why it should be so is a secret which will not be discovered till we can understand the bird language, which has been lost ever since Adam was expelled the garden of Eden. To say more on these subjects would be unnecessary, and only tire the reader's patience ; these specimens will be sufficient to instruct him, that all performances of this kind are inventions carried on by slight and deception ; that the exhibitors are no more conjurers than other folks, only thro' practice ; and that any one might soon be capable of the same, did they bestow their time and attention on things of so trifling a nature.

## C H A P. III.

*Containing a Variety of other curious Tricks and Fancies, by Calculation, and other Means.*

*How on delivering a Ring to a Number of Persons, to find which Person has got it, which Hand it is on, which Finger, and which Joint.*

THOUGH witchcraft, witches, and wizards, and those tawney sibyls, or gipsy gangs, are less numerous than in former days, and almost totally exploded by a late act of parliament ; yet there are a great many of the sensible part of the world, that firmly hold the doctrine of magic, and think that an old woman, with a leather-looking aspect, thin jaws, and a quantity of hair upon her chin, can mount a broomstick, and fly to sweep the cobwebs off the moon ; or, that others can creep in at a key-hole, and carry a chest of drawers out the same way,

way, or transform themselves into a black cat, a crooked horned cow, a dark lantern, or a crooked six-pence. To such as will not be undeceived by the light of reason, I shall give full liberty to remain in the darkness of ignorance. The following contrivance will, by many, be looked on, no doubt, as not to be done, but by the assistance of magic art; that is, to give a ring among a number of people, without knowing to which, and yet to tell which person has got the ring, on which hand, finger, and joint. The company must sit down on a row, then beginning at one end of the company, call one of them the first, another the second, and next the third, and so on; also call the right hand the first, the left hand the second, and so forth, and so of the joints of each finger; then deliver the ring, and leave them to conceal it among themselves.

Then, to find which has the ring, upon which hand, which finger, and which joint, bid them double the first man's number, and add to it five,  
and

and multiply the sum by five and to the product add ten; and the next man's number thought upon; then let them multiply the sum by ten, and add to the product the next man's number, and so proceed; then enquire the last sum, and if there were but two numbers thought upon, subtract three hundred and fifty therefrom; if four, three thousand five hundred, &c. for the numbers representing the person, the hand, the finger, and the joint, may be taken for four numbers thought upon.

## E X A M P L E.

Suppose the fourth person has the ring on his left hand, and on the third joint of that finger, bid them double the number of the person, it makes

-	-	8
To which add five, it makes		13
This multiplied by five makes		65
To which add ten, and it makes		75
And two added for the left hand		77
Which multiplied by ten, makes	770	
To which adding five, for the fingers, makes		775
This multiplied by ten, makes	7750	
To		



To which three added for the joints, makes	-	7753
To which cause them to add fourteen (or any number you please to conceal it) makes	-	7767
From which subtract	-	3514
And there remains	-	4253

Which shews that the fourth person has the ring upon the second hand, the fourth finger, and the third joint.

Note, that 3500 is the number always to be subtracted, only you must add thereto, as much as you cause to be added to the last sum, which were fourteen.

Thus this mighty magical affair is determined by figures and calculation; yet it must be owned, that such subjects are of use, to exercise the memory, and make you perfect in one of the most useful branches of knowledge, as it is of the most distinguished service in all professions; the merchant, the tradesman, and the mechanic.

*How*

*How to rub out Twenty Chalks at five Times, rubbing out, every Time, an odd one.*

TRICKS of this kind are more generally the diversion of low mechanics, who, having studied what is trifling, more than what is useful, fancy themselves conjurers, and not a little proud, often affront and insult those of superior knowledge, always ready to lay wagers, when in their cups, offer five to one, ten to one, or any adds that comes uppermost, that none can do the like but themselves; yet sometimes these cunning men find themselves at a loss, when they meet with a person who is equally knowing, who makes their pockets pay for their boasting. From these sort of wagers arise quarrels; for if one is not equal to another in point of calculation, he thinks he may in point of manhood; a challenge is given and accepted; and the combatants, fierce as bull-dogs, begin throwing their athletic arms at each other,

other, the stones are ramm'd deeper with their falls, the noisy attendants make confusion, ashamed with their vociferous clamouring. "Well struck Dick, that was a nice one Tom, at him again, under his ribs, darken his day-lights, mind your points, find out his bread-basket, tip him Slack's favourite, give him a cross-buttock, and come Ben-bosse over his jaw-bone. Huzza, huzza, huzza !" then the valiant heroes, encouraged by their friends the rabble, bruise one another's flesh, and at last, the victor, perhaps, gains for his triumph, a black eye, bloody nose, and dislocated jaw ; and all his comfort is, that his antagonist has the same sort of honour doubled. After all this a few tankards of porter make them friends ; but their wives and families are the greatest sufferers, that are at home pining in rags and want, while their husbands are losing their time and abusing themselves.

The following trick is one of those most in practice among them.

To do this trick you must make  
twenty

twenty chalks or long strokes upon a board, as in the margin.

Then begin and count back-	1—
wards as 20, 19, 18, 17, rub	2—
out these four, then proceed	3—
saying, 16, 15, 14, 13, rub out	4—
these four, and begin again, 12,	5—
11, 10, 9, and rub out these,	6—
and proceed again 8, 7, 6, 5,	7—
and rub out these, and lastly	8—
say, 4, 3, 2, 1; when these four	9—
are rubbed out, the whole	10—
twenty are rubbed out at five	11—
times, and every time an odd	12—
one, that is, the 17th, 13th,	13—
9th, 5th and 1st.	14—

This is a trick which, if once	15—
seen, may be easily retained;	16—
and the only puzzle at first, is	17—
it not occurring immediately	18—
to the mind, to begin to rub	19—
them out backwards. It is as	20—

simple as any thing possibly can be, and might do very well when people are social and good-humoured together; but when they are flushed with liquor, and fractious by nature, I advise all those who love peace and quietness, not

to be curious to know what they cannot directly comprehend, as one word brings on another, and the consequences may be what is displayed in the preface to this trick.

*A Person holding Gold in one Hand and Silver in the other, to find which the Gold is in and which the Silver.*

TRICKS of this kind, though very simple are really amusing; they are pretty puzzlers to entertain the mind, and as such may be recommended to young people who are inclined to be merry without design to offend.

That wit or ingenuity, which has malice or envy for its object, is a spurious offspring, and not the genuine descendant of the sportive god, Momus.

*To tell if a Person holds Gold in one Hand and Silver in the other; which Hand the Gold is in, and which the Silver.*

BID him reckon four for the gold, and three for the silver, or any other number, so that one be odd, and the other even; then let him triple that which is in the right hand, and double that in the left, and let him add these two products together; then ask him if it be even or odd; for if it be even, then the gold will be in the right hand; but if odd, the gold is in the left hand.

Such tricks as these are harmless, and may be practised, to pass away time on a tedious evening, without the parties being the least culpable; for which reason it is recommended to the youthful and innocent, as a pleasant recreation.



*To find the Number of Points cast on  
Three Dice.*

A quaker being asked by the great F——e for the loan of a few thousands, to prevent his bank from failing in such a critical period, replied, with an archness peculiar to his brethren, “ Friend, I have heard that  
“ many a man may be ruined by two  
“ dice, but I am determined that  
“ *Fourdice* shall never ruin me.”

DICE are the more immediate companions of sharpers and gamblers, who, from a long acquaintance with them, know to a certainty what points they can throw.

To find the number of points cast on three dice ; let any one cast three dice ; then bid him add together the points which are uppermost ; then set one of the dice aside, and to the former, add the points at the bottom of the other two dice ; then bid him throw these two dice, and mark

E 2

how

how many points appear at the top, which add to the former sum, then let him set one of those dice aside, and mark the points which are under the other dice, and add it to the former sum; lastly, let him throw that other dice, and whatever appears on the top of it, add to the former sum, and let the dice remain.—This done, come to the table, and note what points appear upon the three dice, which add privately together, and add to it twenty-one, and you will find the sum to be equal to the sum which the parties privately had made of all the other operations.

Thus by calculations many things, almost incredible to think, may be done; yet such alluring things are dice, as well as cards, that their nature and use are dangerous to explain to young minds; but as this may be of service to those who would be competent in all the branches of arithmetic, it can be of no hurt.

To

*To find the Points cast upon Two Dice.*

AS we have given one specimen in regard to dice, another we presume will not be thought disagreeable, especially as the remarks made on the good and bad use of them may be a warning not to convert a simple pastime into a vicious crime; for certain, it is more a crime than folly, for any person to stake his fortune, or estate, upon the chance of what may be uppermost on the face of two or three pieces of spotted ivory; but as admonition is vain to those who will not hear, and of no use to those who cannot understand, any thing farther on that head would be useless; we shall therefore proceed to the second subject.

To find the points cast upon two dice, let any one cast both the dice, and then mark how many points appear at the top, then let him take up one of them, (no matter which) and see what number is at the bottom, and add altogether; then let

E 3 him

him cast the dice again, and add the points cast to the former sum ; let the dice stand, bring seven with you, and then add the points which appear at the top of the dice, and you will find so many were cast in the whole.

Simple as this appears to be, there are many not able to comprehend it ; and, therefore, I advise them not to meddle with dice at all ; as every one's head is not alike for arithmetical calculations ; it requires a strong memory ; whereas, in works of fancy, the ideas are continually fluctuating, and, as Mr. Pope says,

“ Where beams of warm imagination play,  
“ the memory's soft faculty melts away.”

*To make a Person tired, or sweat, at  
carrying a small Stick out of a Room.*

MOST amusements become more agreeable as they appear more insignificant at the first, and become more laughable in the end ; give a stick into the hands of any person, suppose not  
thicker

thicker than a pea in circumference, or three inches in length, and tell him you will lay any wager that he shall not carry it out of the room a foot from the door without sweating, being tired, or complaining that his back aches ; this the person (not knowing your intention) no doubt will laugh at, and readily accept the bett: as soon as you have made the stake *sure*, take a knife and cut off a little bit, so small you can hardly see it, and bid ~~him~~ carry that at first, and then give him another ; and if he thinks proper to abide by the wager, you may, by this means, make him go some thousands of times ; but sooner than proceed to the end of the experiment, it is a thousand to one but he owns he has lost ; for it might be so managed, by the smallness of the pieces cut, the little stick might find him employment for a fortnight.

*A Trick*

*A Trick with a Cock.*

BIRDS, and animals, it is very well known, are possessed of wonderful faculties ; and may be taught to form wonderful things ; this is evident from recent circumstances : Mr. Pinchbeck's learned dog and bird are sufficient proofs to establish this beyond all other arguments.

Among the many things practised on, and with the feathered race, this of the cock is not the least particular.

Take a cock from roost at night, or off its walk by day, and bring him into a room full of company, keep both your hands close to his wings, and hold them tight ; put him on a table, and point his beak down as strait as possible, and then let any one draw a line, with a piece of chalk, directly from its beak, and all the noise you can possibly make, with drums, trumpets, or even the crowing of other cocks, will not disturb him from the seeming lethargy which  
that



that position you have laid him in, with the chalked line, has effected.

Strange as this is, yet the certainty of it is past a doubt, as many gentlemen, who have, ere this, sported some hundreds, on the royal turf, have assured us they have tried the experiment, and declare it to be a fact.

*A droll Trick played with a Fowl.*

A person who was rather put to it for money set his wits to work how to obtain a little of that necessary commodity; he canvassed over a number of things in his mind, and at last hit upon the following expedient.

He had got a young cock, which he had brought up to do almost whatever he pleased (that is, as far as the nature of the bird would allow); it would lay down as dead, with its head tuck'd under its wing, and lie in that manner as long as he thought proper.

This cock he stripp'd all the feathers from, as they do geese in Lincolnshire, and set the cryer to work, informing the

the gentlemen, students, &c. (for it was at Cambridge) that at such an hour in the evening he would exhibit a roasted fowl, which, as soon as attempted to be cut up, should rise out of the dish, and fly away with the fork stuck in it.

Half a crown was the price for seeing this great curiosity; and to make it appear as not a mere take in, no money was to be received till after the performance.

Bills in writing were likewise distributed, and not a few attended at the inn; the scholars laughed in their sleeves; they had heard and seen the Jonas's, the Comas's, the Breslaw's, and the Katterfelto's; but this trick promised to surpass them all.

In the meantime a fowl was laid down to the fire, and the cook brought into the confederacy; a large bason of egg sauce was made, and left to cool, the cloth was laid, and the guests desired to walk in; the needy contriver of the scheme was as busy as could be, entertaining the company with a multitude of extraordinary stories

to

to divert their attention, while he carried on the deception : at last the fowl was done, several were present at its being taken off the spit, and then hastened into the parlour ; mean time another dish was ready close to the door, with the live fowl stripp'd of its feathers in it, and covered over with the cold egg sauce.

As soon as this was set upon the table (for the change was managed so cleanly, that no person perceived it) one of the students stuck in his fork, with a degree of vehemence, that made the fowl quit its supineness, run from the dish, and fluttering its wings, bespattered the company all over with egg sauce ; and actually made off with the fork, to the no small surprise and mirth of the beholders.

The man having thus fulfilled his promise, began to collect the half crowns, which tumbled in pretty plentifully ; the real roasted fowl was served in with other provisions ; and after supper, the evening was concluded with the utmost harmony, and  
much

much to the satisfaction of the wag, who was the contriver, and who filled his pockets by the experiment.

*To make an Egg stand an end on a Table or on a Looking-glass.*

TO divert with propriety is no easy task : it is not sufficient that a person knows a trick, and can do it, but it requires a certain address, an easy manner in the performing of it, which renders it doubly pleasing.

To make an egg stand an end on any polished surface seems very extraordinary, yet it is to be done, even on a *looking glass* ; now from the form of an egg nothing is more liable to roll, and nothing more so than on a looking-glass ; to accomplish this trick, let the performer take an egg in his hand, and while he keeps talking, and staring in the face of his audience, give it two or three hearty shakes, which will break the yolk, which will sink to one end, and consequently make it more heavy, by which, when  
it

it is settled, you may make it, with a steady hand, stand upon the glass, which would be impossible while it continued in its pristine state.

*To put a Candle under Water a-light,  
without its going out.*

AS much has been said about the *diving bell*, this simple trick may serve, in some degree, to elucidate that contrivance ; as it is certainly done on the same principle.

Take a glass, and fastening a small bit of wood across the mouth, stick thereon a bit of candle lighted, and, with a steady hand, bring the glass to the surface of the water, then push it carefully down, and you may see the candle burn under the water, and may bring it up again a-light ; and the same manner you may put a handkerchief rolled tight together, and it will not be wet.

The principal art in doing this trick consists in the nicety of bringing the mouth of the glass exactly

F even

even with the surface of the water ; for if you put it the least on one side, the wet will get in, and consequently will put the candle out, or wet the handkerchief ; so that a nice eye and steady hand are absolutely necessary for this performance.

*Various Performances and Deceptions  
with Cards.*

CARDS are capable of affording a deal of entertainment, besides the different games which are played with them ; and indeed it must be acknowledged, the tricks played with them are more innocent than any thing else they are used for.

How many lovely ladies lose their complexions at the midnight card-table, which, from the eagerness of gaming, flurries the spirits, affects the passions, and often disorders the whole frame, to the great injury of health ; for though people may be regardless of their wealth, and care not what they lose, yet a certain solicitude prevails



vails with every one who plays, and few there are who make it simply an amusement ; therefore cards are no farther recommended than merely to create innocent mirth, which the following tricks will not a little accelerate.

*For a Person to chuse a Card, you not supposed to know what it is, and then for the Person to hold the Cards between his Finger and Thumb, to strike them all out of his Hand except the very Card he had taken.*

THIS is called the Nerve Trick, and is thus performed : having previously looked at a card, bid the person draw one, taking care to shove that to which you know ; when he has looked at it, let him put it at the bottom ; let him shuffle the cards, then you look at them again, and finding the Card, place it at the bottom ; then cut them in half ; give the party that part which contains his

F 2

chosen

chosen card at the bottom, to look between his finger and thumb just at the corner ; bid him pinch them as tight as he can ; then striking them pretty sharp, they will all fall to the ground except the bottom one, which is the card he had chosen.

This is a very curious trick, and if cleanly done, is really astonishing ; but may be accounted for from the nature of the nerves, which are always more retentive when any thing is attempted to be taken either by force or surprize.

*To tell what Card a Person thinks upon, though you are not in the Room, or which Card he has touched, or waved his Hand over.*

TO do this trick you must lay a wager that you will tell the card the person has touched, though you do not see it : let several cards be laid out on a table, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or any number, then turn your back, or leave the room while the person makes choice ;

choice; on your return you must enquire what he will lay, having your eye upon the cards laid out; if he says he will lay six to one, or ten to one, you must take the highest number, as that will, in all probability, be the card he had fixed on. You must seem to pause about counting the cards as they lay, and choosing the farthest off.

*How to deliver out Four Aces, and convert them to Four Knaves.*

THIS trick is one among the many which is effected by a quick flight; for if it is done in a bungling manner, it may easily be detected, and the pretended will be liable to contempt instead of applause.

To do this, make a pack of eight cards, viz. four aces and four knaves, and let them be laid in this order: an ace and a knave, and so alternately through all the eight cards; then shuffle them, so as always at the second shuffling, or at least when you

have done shuffling them, one of the aces may be the nethermost card ; then use some words or device, and putting your hand with the cards to the edge of the table, let out privately a piece of the second card, which is one of the knaves ; then shewing to the standers by the nether card, which is one of the aces ; be sure to cover the piece of the knave with your fingers ; then draw out the same knave, laying it down on the table ; then shuffle the cards as before, and you will have two aces at bottom ; therefore take off the uppermost card, and thrust it into the middle of the pack ; do the same with the nethermost card, which is one of the aces, then you may shew another ace as before ; and instead of that lay down another knave : proceed in the same method till instead of the four aces you have laid down the four knaves.

The beholders, all the time thinking that there lay four aces on the table, are greatly deceived when the cards are turned up, and will wonder at the transformation.

To

*To tell what Card a Person pitches on, without seeing the Card till you find it in the Pack.*

THE many different tricks which may be done with cards must have been invented by various persons, at different periods, as it cannot be supposed that any one person could be the inventor of all. This trick is done in the following manner: as you hold the cards in your hand, let any one take a card out of the pack, and look at it it; then take the card from them with your eyes shut, and put it at the bottom of the pack; then shuffle the cards till you know it is come to the bottom again; then putting the cards behind you, make as though you shuffled them behind you, but let your shuffling be only this; take off the uppermost card, and put it at the bottom, reckon that two; then take off another card, and reckon that three; then take off as many as you please from the  
top,

top, and put them at the bottom, counting to yourself how many you take off : then bring the cards forth, and hold them with their faces towards you ; take them off one by one, privately counting the number, and smell to them, as though you found it out by your nose, till you come to the right card ; then produce it, saying, this is it ; and they will wonder how you found it out.

A little practice will serve to perfect any person in this trick, and indeed most of them depend on practice, as well as all other manual operations.

*To call for any Card in the Pack.*

THIS trick, which requires very little practice, or indeed understanding, to perform, is done in the following manner.

Having privately seen a card, put it at the bottom of the pack, then shuffle the cards till it comes to the bottom again, then put the cards behind you ; and say here I call for,  
naming



naming the bottom card, which you have seen ; and as you hold them behind you, turn the top card with its face upwards, then hold forth the cards, and as you hold them you may see what the next card is ; then put the cards behind you again, and take the top card, and put it at the bottom, with its face downwards, and turn the next card with its face upwards, and whilst you are doing this, say, here I call for ; naming the card you saw lost ; then hold forth the cards again, shewing the bottom card, which will be that you call for ; then put the cards behind you again, and proceed in the same manner as you did before ; you may by this method go through them all, and call for all the cards in the pack, to the admiration of the beholders, who will be surpris'd how you could find them out when you hold them behind you.

*To shuffle Cards in such a Manner as  
always to keep one certain Card at  
the Bottom.*

A PERSON with a hard hand and stiff joints should never think of playing deception with the cards, as clumsy fingers will not do. In shewing tricks with cards, the principal point consists in shuffling them nimbly, and yet keeping one certain card, either at the bottom or in some known place of the pack, four or five cards from the bottom ; for by this, you may seem to work wonders; since it is easy for you to see, or take notice of a card ; which though you are perceived to do, it will not be suspected if you shuffle them well together, afterwards, by the method here to be taught, which is this : in shuffling let the bottom card be always kept a little before, or, which is best, a little behind all the rest of the cards ; put it a little beyond the rest before, right over your fore finger,  
or

or else, which is the best, a little behind the rest, so as the little finger of the left hand may slip up, and meet with it at the first; shuffle as thick as you can, and at last, throw upon the board the bottom card, with as many more as you would preserve for any purpose, a little before or a little behind the rest; and be sure to let your fore finger, (if the pack be laid before) or your little finger, (if the pack be laid behind) always creep up to meet with the bottom card, and when you feel it, you may there hold it till you have shuffled over again, which being done, the card which was first at the bottom will come there again; thus you may shuffle them before their faces, and yet leave your noted card at the bottom; you must try to be very perfect in this method of shuffling; and having once attained it, you may do almost what you please; for whatever pack you make, though it is ten, twelve, or twenty cards, you may still keep it next the bottom, and yet shuffle them often, to please the curious.

*A plea-*

*A pleasing Trick by Figures.*

THE person who performs the trick must write down four figures, which being seen by the company, he is privately to mark down the sum that those figures, with another four under them marked by one of the company, and a third row by himself, shall amount to. The performer marks 1 2 3 4, and then privately the sum the three rows will make, which let the person in company mark what figures he will in the second row, the third marked by the performer shall make the sum total 11233. As for instance :

The performer marks	1234
The person in company	5678
The performer	<u>4321</u>
	11233

This trick is done by the performer adding the figure 1 at the beginning of the first number, and making the last figure 1 less. Whatever figures are marked in the second row, the performer is to mark such under them

as

as will make the figures in the two last rows tell for nine, when the sum total will amount to the sum privately marked by the performer.

*Another Trick by Figures.*

TELL any person to think of what number they please, which being done, tell them to double that number; then to add what number you think proper; then to halve the whole; then to take away the first number they thought of, and you will tell them the remainder.

To explain this trick, suppose the person thinks of 12, you tell him to double it, which makes 24; you then tell him to add 10 to it, which makes 34; then to halve the whole, which reduces it to 17; then take away the first number he thought of, which is 12; and the remainder will be 5.

The doing of this trick is directed by a most infallible rule; for whatever even sum you tell them to *add*, the remainder (as in the case above) will always be *half* that number.

## C H A P. IV.

*Containing Geographical Paradoxes.*

**T**HERE is nothing more entertaining or diverting than paradoxes, and the following geographical ones we flatter ourselves will be acceptable to our readers.

## P A R A D O X I.

There is a certain place of the earth, in a considerable northern latitude, where though the days and nights, even when shortest, do consist of several hours, yet in that place it is noon-day every half hour.

Solution : Under the North Pole, where the sun, when visible, is always seen the due south ; and consequently it is not only noon every half hour, but every minute.

## P A R A D O X II.

There is a noted place on the earth, where the sun and the moon, even  
when



when at full, may both happen to rise at the same time; and upon the same point of the compass.

Solution. Under the North Pole, the sun and the full moon, both decreasing in south declination, may rise in the equinoxial points at the same time; and under the North Pole, there is no other point of compass but south.

### P A R A D O X III.

There are two remarkable places on the globe of the earth, in which there is only one day, and one night, throughout the whole year.

Solution. These places are the two poles.

### P A R A D O X IV.

There is a certain island in the Levant, upon which, if two children born at the same time and living together for several years, should both die at the same time, yet the life of the one would surpass that of the other by several months.

Solution. If one of the persons travels east, and the other west, round the globe, which may be done in a year, there will be two days difference in their account of time ; and if this travelling be continued for forty years, there will be eighty days difference in their reckonings ; and so many days older will he be that travelled eastward than he that travelled westward.

#### P A R A D O X V.

Some persons talking of the variety of business they had seen one man do, in a short time, was interrupted by a person, who said, he had seen a man who in one artificial day, could do as much business as an hundred such men as he they had been talking of.

Solution. In one of the long days, between the sun-rising and setting, in the frigid zone, as the days there are half a year long.

#### P A R A D O X VI.

A very great traveller asserted, that he had seen Whit-sunday fall on the longest

longest day, on the shortest day, and on the day when the days and nights were equal.

Solution. In the year 1739, the sun entered the sign Cancer, on Whitsunday, being the longest day in north latitude, the shortest in south latitude, and under the equator equal day and night. Now the traveller crossing the line on that day, sees every article asserted.

#### P A R A D O X VII.

There is a certain place in the island of Great Britain, where the stars are always visible at any time of the day, if the horizon be not overcast.

Solution. In a deep well, or a coal pit, the surrounding light, which the atmosphere spreads in the open air, is removed from the sight, so that if the shaft of the well, or pit, be straight, those stars near the zenith will be readily seen.

#### P A R A D O X VIII.

There is a certain city in the  
G 3 southern

southern part of China, whose inhabitants (both male and female) when walking or standing, do observe much the same posture as the Europeans, and yet they frequently appear to strangers, as if they stood or walked on their heads.

Solution. People on each side of a canal, or river of water, see the images of one another in the water, with the head downwards, and so are the people of China seen in their rivers, by the Europeans from their ships.

#### P A R A D O X IX.

There is a certain city, whose buildings being generally of firm stone, are for the most part of a prodigious height, and exceeding strong, and yet it is most certain, that the walls of not one house in the whole city are parallel to one another, nor perpendicular to the plane on which the middle of the house stands.

Solution. Every builder endeavours to raise walls perpendicular to the level of the spot they stand upon,  
in

in a line directed towards the center of the earth : consequently two such walls are not equal or parallel ; and geometry shews, that no other line drawn perpendicular to a tangent, beside that at the point of contract, is directed towards the center.

### P A R A D O X · X.

There is a remarkable river, on the continent of Europe, over which there is a bridge of such a breadth, that above three thousand men may pass along abreast, and that without crowding one another in the least.

Solution. There are rivers which in some part of their course, run under ground for a considerable way, of two, or three miles, which is breadth sufficient for three thousand men to walk a-breast of one another ; allowing there were more than three feet space for each man to walk on.

## C H A P. V.

*Dreams and their Interpretations, the  
Belief in Dreams established from  
Holy Writ, &c.*

FROM the earliest accounts of past ages, mention is made of dreams, and they were looked upon as divine informations, signs, and warnings, not a few of which are mentioned in holy writ.

The inspired writers have thought proper to display their discernment, by various ways ; the dream of that heathen tyrant Nebuchadnezzar was interpreted by Daniel, and, according to that interpretation, was fulfilled.

The dream of Pharaoh was not less remarkable, and the interpretation of Joseph was likewise accomplished.

Besides, there are many other instances in ancient record, which plainly evince, that dreams convey a kind of fore-knowledge of what will come to pass some time or other; and as there is hardly a person but feels



feels, at some period, this phantacy of the night, a collection of interpretations may not be disagreeable.

We shall introduce our observations on this subject with two very singular circumstances; the first of which is as follows: A labouring man in the country dreamed, that if he came to London, and sat upon a particular part of London bridge, he should hear of something which would entirely banish his poverty, and fix him above labour and want for the remainder of his life; this dream was repeated for several successive nights, which made so strong an impression on his mind, that he determined to go directly to London, and take his station on the bridge, as he was directed in his vision.

This he actually did, and sat from morning till night, for several days together. At length, a person taking notice of him, as he passed along, took the liberty to seat himself by his side, and ask the reason of his continually keeping that station, when the countryman told him his dream;

dream ; “ a parcel of nonsense,” replied the man ; “ why I dreamed  
 “ last night, that close to a great  
 “ tree in a field, in such a part of the  
 “ country, there was a great deal of  
 “ money buried ; but I should be  
 “ a very great fool was I to go above  
 “ an hundred miles on account of  
 “ such a dream.”

“ True,” said the countryman,  
 “ and I think I will wait no longer.”

From what the gentleman said, and the description he gave of the place, the countryman was convinced it was close to his own cottage ; and on his return, digging near to the supposed tree, absolutely discovered a vast treasure ; which made him and his family happy during the remainder of their lives.

The other circumstance is, that two men travelling together, were overtaken by a terrible storm of thunder and lightning, with violent rain, so that they thought it best to take shelter at a public house, and go no farther that night ; having supped, and retired to bed, no sooner

was

was one of them asleep than he dreamed his house was on fire, and his wife and family in great danger; troubled at which, he communicated it to his companion, who bade him not mind it, but try to sleep again; which he did, and had the same dream again; and so a third time, when he determined to get up and go home with all speed, which he did with his companion; when coming to the house, he found the door open, and on entering, two villains were forcing into his wife's chamber, with a dark lantern, and a pistol, which they by good fortune secured; so that by this dream he saved his property, and very likely the life of his wife; wherefore dreams are not to be disregarded.

If a young woman dreams she is walking in pleasant groves, or gardens, she may be certain of marrying the man she loves; but if she dreams the trees and flowers are covered with snow, she will be crossed in love.

If a young man, or woman dreams  
of

of bad fruit, it is a sign their sweet-hearts are false-hearted.

To dream of running streams of water, denotes you will shed many tears.

For a maid to dream a young man gives her a glass of clear water to drink, shews she will have an offer of being well married; and it is the same, if a young man dreams the like.

To dream you see clear water running by your bed side, denotes you will gain some benefit from a relation or friend.

To dream a raven lights upon your head is a sign of death to the dreamer.

To dream you hear a magpye chatter denotes quarrels and debates.

To dream of a parrot is a sign some gossip will bely you.

To dream of the wind blowing, and shifting about, shews you will often change your mind.

To dream of sailing in a boat, on a clear river, is a sign of love.

For a man to dream he falls into the

the water, of some great torrent, is a sign he will fall in love with a married woman, which will occasion him much uneasiness.

For a maid to dream a young man puts a gold ring on her finger, is a sure sign of marriage; and the same if he ties on her garter.

To dream the air is serene, and sky blue, but afterwards to be overclouded, and the winds boisterous, denotes you will be happy when you are first married; but after, through poverty and quarreling, you will lead a very unhappy life.

To dream you see an eagle take its flight is a sign of prosperity and advancement.

To dream you are in presence of a lion is a sign of honour; and if it fauns upon you, it betokens you will be in favour with some great personage.

To dream you see a lamb killed is a sign of grief.

To dream you see a couple of milk white doves, or pigeons, come to

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your

your chamber window, is a sign of speedy marriage.

To dream you see a bear signifies a powerful and dangerous enemy.

To dream of an ape, or monkey, shews you will receive some injury from a cunning mischievous person.

If you dream you are writing a letter, and that you write a very fine hand, is not good; but if you dream you blot, or tear your paper, you will have success.

If a married woman dreams she heard the cuckoo sing, it signifies some man will endeavour to seduce her from her husband.

To dream you see your face in a glass betokens love.

For a person to dream they see their own back denotes poverty.

If you dream your shoes and stockings are worn out, and your feet are dirty, it is a sign of sickness.

If one dreams of seeing a great deal of milk, it sheweth plenty, as it does likewise to dream of corn.

If a young man dreams he rides on a white horse, (which is his own) he  
will



will very soon be married to a beautiful young lady, and if a young woman dreams it, she will speedily have a handsome rich husband.

To dream you have white gloves on your hands denotes much honour.

To dream it rains, denotes getting of riches.

If any one dreams they are cloathed in rich filks and lace, it betokens advancement.

To dream you pick your ears, is a sign you will hear some news.

To dream you see a hen and chickens, is a sign you will have many children, and have a deal of care upon you to bring them up.

If any one dreams they have got a hamper of eggs, it signifies profit and gain; but if they are broken, it is a sign of loss in trade.

To dream your teeth drop out, sheweth the death of relations; and if you dream one of your teeth is longer and more troublesome than the rest, it denotes strife and contention among your nearest kin.

If a man dreams he has lost his left eye, he will lose his wife ; and if the woman dreams she has lost her right eye, she will lose her husband.

If a person dreams their mouth is grown wider and bigger than common, it is a sure sign they will grow rich, and keep a great house.

To dream a lighted candle stands in your chamber, or a clear fire is burning, is a sign of great love and desire ; and if you dream you see any part of the house on fire, with a great smoke and crackling, it denotes anger, or hasty news.

For one to dream they are dead and buried denotes great riches, and the more earth was thrown on you, the more money you will get.

To dream a bird flies into your hands, is a sign of a present.

If any one dreams of finding gold they may be sure of meeting with a disappointment.

To dream a dog follows you betokens a true friend.

To dream you run signifies disgrace ;

grace ; and if a sick person dreams he runs, it is a sign of death.

To dream your sweetheart shews you fine pictures shews he is deceitful.

To dream you drink hot liquor with any one signifies wrangling.

To dream you are drunk denotes sickness.

To dream you have a fine fresh colour is a sign of health and contentment ; and to dream you are pale and thin denotes grief and affliction.

To dream your toes and fingers are strong betokens many friends to help you.

If you dream the sun is eclipsed, you will fall from high fortune.

To see the moon at the full shews you will have a handsome daughter.

If any one dreams he goes a fishing, it is a sign of undergoing much labour and toil in his business ; but to dream one makes you a present of fish, is very good.

If a man dreams of finding a parcel of nuts, he will by some means or other, get a great deal of money.

If a married woman dreams of gathering

thering a great quantity of nuts, it is a sign that she either is, or soon will be pregnant. If she dreams of gathering fruit, which is ready to drop from its ripeness, it denotes that her delivery is near at hand.

If either man or woman dreams that a child or children are by a river side, and narrowly escape falling in, it is a sign they will be violently afflicted with some illness; but if they dream the child or children absolutely slipped in and were irrecoverably lost, it is a certain sign of death.

To dream you hear the ringing of bells denotes joy.

To dream of music and singing signifies grief, especially if you dream you sing well.

To dream you hear drums beat is a sign you will be alarmed at something.

To dream you see people cooking, and preparing for a feast, is a sign there is a match making up for you by your friends.

To dream of a heated oven. or of hot bread, denotes you will change your place.

To

To dream of shaking hands with any one is a sign of friendship.

If any one dreams he talks with an enemy, he must take care of him.

For one woman to dream she salutes another is a sign of deceit.

If one dreams of eating ripe oranges, it is a sign of wounds and bruises.

To dream of eating ripe cherries, shews the party is in love, and is beloved again.

To dream of seeing a rainbow, signifies your love will change.

If a young woman dreams of seeing faded roses, she stands a chance to die an old maid.

To dream of gathering flowers, denotes a short lived happiness.

To hear birds sing denotes pleasure.

To taste sweet things signifies flattery.

To dream of a great storm of hail signifies hindrance and obstruction in your affairs.

To dream you see a horse or hare run swift, denotes expedition in business.

If

If a woman dreams she sees a naked man, it shews great dread and fear.

To dream of being stung by a wasp, signifies some spiteful person will injure your character.

To dream of a swallow, or any bird of passage, signifies voyages by sea.

To dream you hear a nightingale sing, foretells melancholy.

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## C H A P. VI.

### *Strange Tricks performed by Electricity.*

AMONG the wonderful discoveries of human nature, there is hardly any that rank higher than electricity.

This phenomenon like many others was found out merely by accident ; yet has proved not only a source for various



various experiments, but likewise extremely beneficial to mankind.

The great Dr. Franklin has improved more in this branch of knowledge than any other person ; he even contrived to bring lightning from the clouds by means of conductors ; these conductors are of great service, when fixed to churches, and other public edifices, to preserve them from the dreadful effects of the rapidness of elemental fire.

When electricity is made use of physically it is of great utility, and has been known to relieve, and sometimes entirely cure, various disorders ; it is very serviceable in the rheumatism, and other chronic disorders.

One circumstance I shall mention, which I received from a gentleman who has been dead some years, but whose character as an artist, and an ingenious person, will be a long time remembered ; I mean Mr. Benjamin Rackstrow, of Fleet-street.

He told me, that having some company one day to see his museum, and his electrical experiments, they were

were rather fearful of undergoing the shock; when a person who was much given to inebriety, being in the room, and rather intoxicated, voluntarily offered to let the experiment be tried on him. This was agreed to, upon which he received it pretty smartly three or four times, and thought no more about it at that time. A few days afterwards, he had occasion to go to Chichester, in Sussex; and being rather low in circumstances, was obliged to walk.

This man had been afflicted for many years with a rupture, which was extremely troublesome, but on this journey he had not the least symptoms of it; on which he wrote a letter to Mr. Rackstrow, informing him of this agreeable circumstance, and imputing it entirely to his receiving the shocks from his electrical apparatus; the man lived to confirm this by word of mouth; and what is really extraordinary the rupture never returned, which is sufficient to establish its physical consequence. It is of farther service in palfies, and contractions;

tractions ; and is performed by sparks, drawn by friction from the machine.

Its real use being thus established, we may now, without offending, be a little merry with other circumstances, which have and may happen again, by means of electricity.

Some ladies and gentlemen coming to Mr. Rackstrow's, brought with them a *negro* servant, who had not been long in England. After they had seen his natural and artificial curiosities, they desired to see some of his electrical experiments, and gave him a hint to play a trick or two upon poor Mungo. Mungo was not a little surpris'd at the shocks he received, but could not guess from whence they came ; but when the room was darkened, and fire was made to come out of his fingers ends, he roared out like a mad bull, crying, the devil, the devil ! and in endeavouring to get out of the room, overset the skeleton of a Rhinoceros, run his head against a case full of butterflies, and broke all to pieces a fine bust of the Marquis of Granby ; and having

ing once more gained day-light, made a sudden spring into the street, and run immediately home, to the no small diversion of his master and family.

Mrs. Bulky being troubled with a tympany, was recommended to be electrified. She accordingly went to a professor in that way, who asked her if she could bear a pretty hard shock? O yes, Sir, said she, as hard as you please, and as often as you please, I am very fond of being *shocked*; the man, by this, supposed she had before undergone the operation, and was not sparing to give her, what she seemed so well to understand; but alas! he wound up his instrument too high: so that he not only overset his patient, but actually conveyed her into a cellar, where they sold ox-cheek, and peas-soup; down went the steaming-pan full of savory broth, and off flew her monument of a cap into the other boiling cauldron.

The cook reddened like a heated poker, the customers rose from their seats, and confusion took place in this subterraneous abode.

All

All culanary business was at an end for the present ; the electrical doctor came running to the assistance of his patient ; but as soon as the cause of the disaster was explained, the occupier of the place declared the damages should be made good ; her pan of leg of beef was entirely lost ; her peas-soup spoiled by the powder and pomatum of the lady's head-dress ; the doctor was the cause of all, and he should pay for all ; but he declared he would, sooner than pay a farthing, electrify the house till it fell about their ears.

At last the lady, however, having adjusted herself in the best manner she could, gave the good woman a crown, and so compromised the matter ; however, it cured her of her tympany, for she never went to the doctor afterwards.

Many are the tricks played by means of an electrifying machine ; a person in the city had one in his shop, which was not seen by the passers by ; he hung at the door an old stilliard, which, from its make, seemed to be



very ancient; this attracted the notice of many, who no sooner went to examine it, than they received the shock; those who knew what it was only smiled, and went on; others stared and could not guess from whence it came.

A drunken porter being called one day, and asked what he would have to carry the stilliard to a certain place, went to examine it, but he no sooner touched it than he felt a blow; and turning round, with an oath, declared if he knew who it was, he would pay them well for their impudence. He then returned to speak about his jobb, and received another shock, and another after that, till, irritated by the supposed assaults, given by he could not tell who, he stripped in buff to fight all that came in his way, till he got a mob of boys and dogs at his heels, and was glad to get away at any rate.

Such tricks are not recommended as proper to be practised, for they are really dangerous; a strange person might,



might, on finding the truth, break the windows, or keep it in his mind, and do the electrifying gentleman an injury, which might make him repent of his experiments.

Small electrical machines are often introduced in company, and create not only mirth, but produce real rational amusement ; such can never be disagreeable, but must give satisfaction to all who have any idea of philosophical knowledge, and wish to improve their minds by mathematical experiments ; to all such we may safely recommend the electrical apparatus, which will be both useful and profitable.

*How to terrify such as are entirely unacquainted with the Nature of Phosphorus.*

PHOSPHORUS is a chemical preparation from human excrement ; and is, in fact, a perpetual fire ; its uses are many, and have been explained by most of the greatest philosophers ; it must be continually kept in water, or it will consume itself ; it

is a very dear commodity, and therefore few can afford to play tricks with it, yet they are to be done in a very terrifying manner.

If you would frighten a person who is ignorant of the means you make use of, take Phosphorus and write upon a wall or some place you know the party will pass in the dark; the words may be just what you please, so that they be applicable to the person you intend to fright : you may likewise draw strange pictures of dragons, or devils, with words coming out of their mouths, with phosphorus, which, in the dark will appear all on fire, have a most frightful appearance, and strike wonder in the beholders. This kind of diversion should, however, be cautiously practised, as weak minds may be terrified into fits, or perhaps be deprived of their senses for ever, as thinking it to be the work of some diabolical agent. There is one instance preserved, in which this experiment proved of real benefit. A very profane wretch, seeing something

thing of the kind, reflecting on his wickedness; and not knowing how it was done, became very good, left off his former vicious course of life, and performed the duties of a worthy member of society. So far the trick was to be applauded, but the success of it could not be known till it was tried.

Phosphorus, though dangerous in unskilful hands, may be converted to various useful purposes; it may serve in the night, to procure, on any emergency, a light, much sooner than with flint and steel, as it will set fire to a match immediately. These and many other uses, are what render it valuable, notwithstanding, as a curiosity, it has hardly its equal.

Having gone through most of such things which are esteemed rare, in chemistry, geography, anatomy, and the mathematics, we shall now proceed to other matters, which though, perhaps, not so curious, we flatter ourselves will be thought no less entertaining to the reader.

## C H A P. VII.

*The Art of Fortune-telling by Cards.*

TAKE a pack of cards, and making yourself which queen you please, lay them out on a table, nine of a row, and wherever you find yourself placed, count nine cards every way, making yourself one, and then you will see what card you tell to, and whatever that is, will happen to you. If the two red tens are by you, it is a sign of marriage, the ace of diamonds is a ring; the ace of hearts, is your house, the ace of clubs is a letter, the ace of spades is death, spite or quarrelling; (for that is the worst card in the pack) the ten of diamonds is a journey, the three of hearts is a kiss, the three of spades is tears, the ten of spades is sickness, the nine of spades a disappointment; the nine of clubs a merry-making; the nine of hearts feasting; the ten of clubs going by water; the ten of hearts, some place

place of amusement, the five of hearts a present, the five of clubs a bundle, the six of spades a child, the seven of spades a removal, the three of clubs fighting; the eight of clubs confusion; the eight of spades a road-way; the four of clubs a strange bed; the nine of diamonds business; the five of diamonds a settlement; the five of spades a surprise; the two red eights, new cloaths; the three of diamonds speaking with a friend; the four of spades a sick bed; the seven of clubs a prison; the two of spades a false friend; the four of hearts a marriage bed; when several diamonds come together, it is a sign of money; several hearts, love; several clubs, drink; and several spades, vexation.

If a married woman lays the cards, she must make her husband the king of the same suit she is queen of; but if a single woman tries it, she may make her sweetheart what king she likes; the knaves of the same suit are the mens thoughts; so that you may know what they are thinking of, by telling



telling nine cards from where they are placed, making them one ; and if any one chuses to try if he shall have her wish, let her shuffle the cards well (as she must likewise when she tells her fortune) wishing all the time for some one thing : she must then cut them once, and minding what card she cuts, shuffle them again, and then deal them out into three parcels, which done, look over every parcel, and if the card you cut comes next yourself, or next the ace of hearts, you will have your wish ; but if the nine of spades is next, you will not, for that is a disappointment ; however, you may try it three times.

This method of telling fortunes is innocent, and much better than for a young woman to tell her secrets to a fortune-teller, who can inform her no better, if she pays a shilling for the intelligence.



## C H A P. VIII.

*Palmistry displayed, or the Art of telling Fortunes by Lines in the Hands.*

**I**F the lines which are in the middle of the hand, (which is called the table lines) are broad, and fair, without being broken, it is a sign the party will lead a happy, comfortable life.

If the line from the wrist goes straight up to the little finger, the person will live to a great old age; but if the line is broken, they are in danger of sudden death, for that is called the line of death; if the line of life, (which is that which runs from the wrist, by the ball of the thumb, and ends under the fore finger) is clear, and without breaks, it shews riches, prosperity and old age; round lines, like circles on the inside of the tips of the fingers, promise houses, land, and inheritance. As many lines or crosses as a woman has  
in

in her wrist, so many children she may expect to have.

If the middle or table lines, in the hand, are very narrow, and contracted, it is a sign of poverty, and great misfortunes in the world.

And if a crooked line runs through the table line, it is a sign of death by accident, or violence; but if it runs strait, and even through, it is a good sign.

When a person frowns, so many wrinkles as they have between their eyes on the top of the nose, shews they will have many husbands and wives.

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## CHAP. IX.

*Of Moles in different Parts of the Body, with the Explanations of them.*

**A** MOLE on the forehead, if in a woman, denotes barrenness, understanding, and a good temper; but indicates some part of her life has been mis-spent, and thrown away on an effeminate and worthless being.

A mole on the nose, shews a man is addicted to women.

A mole on the cheek, shews the party is much beloved.

A mole on the lip, shews a woman will marry very young.

A mole on the chin denotes many misfortunes.

A mole on the breast, betokens a woman to have a great many admirers.

A mole under the ear, betokens the party in danger of being hanged.

A mole in the neck, shews plenty.

A mole

A mole on the throat, denotes a good heart, a lovely person, sweet temper, and one who generally speaks truth.

A mole on the belly, denotes the person is in danger of being drowned.

A mole on the side, betokens a drunken person.

A mole on the hip, shews strength.

A mole in the groin, shews a woman in danger by child-birth.

A mole on the leg, shews a person must work hard for a living.

A mole on the right arm, shews getting money by industry.

And a mole on the left, signifies riches by marriage.

A mole on the ancle, shews crossing the sea.

A mole on the knee, shews travelling by land.

C H A P. X.

*Diverting Tricks, &c.*

*To make a Person tumble and tofs all Night, and not be able to sleep.*

IF a fellow-servant is ill-natured, and giving to tell tales, and create mischief, make use of the following trick ; get some roach allum, and pound it very small, and sprinkle it in his or her bed ; or else a little cow-itch, or horse-hair cut very fine, either will answer the same purpose, and it will cause the person to be so restless, that they will not be able to get the least sleep.

*A whimsical Trick to make Sport in Company.*

TAKE salt petre one ounce, cream of tartar one ounce, sulphur half an ounce, beat them to powder singly, then mix them together, and put the powder in a paper in your pocket ;

K

you



you may then, at any time you please, convey a grain into a pipe of tobacco, and when it takes fire it will give the report of a musket, but not break the pipe ; or you may put as much as will lay upon your nail in any place, upon little bits of paper, and setting fire to it, there will be the report of so many great guns, but it will not produce any bad effect.

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## C H A P. XI.

*Containing comical Stories, Songs, Riddles, Conundrums, Toasts, Sentiments, &c.*

A Dumb beggar was travelling the country, with a long account fastened to his breast, setting forth that he had been taken by a Barbary corsair, been a slave in the galleys, and, lastly, had his tongue cut out in Turkey ; from whence, at last, with much difficulty, he made his escape

to



to Europe ; and coming to England, all his friends being dead, he had no means to get a livelihood but the generous donations of tender-hearted Christians.

This mendicant stopped about noon at a shoe-maker's shop, the master of which gave him a penny, and made signs to him to come in and sit down, (for he pretended to be deaf as well as dumb) which he did ; the master then going into another room to dinner, left him in the shop with the apprentice.

As soon as the master's back was turned, Mr. Dummy got up, and placing himself just before the boy, leaned out of the window to survey those who passed by : the boy could not see to do his work he stood so in his light ; to speak to him he thought was in vain, as he imagined he could not hear ; however, thinking he had not lost the sense of feeling, the boy stooped down, and ran the awl into his leg ; as soon as the dumb man felt the smart, he clapped his hand to the wound, and began to swear with a

most audible voice. The boy, hearing this, ran with all speed to the other room, crying, "Master, master, behold a miracle! I have done more than all the doctors in the world could do; I have fetched the man's tongue out of Turkey, and put it in his head again."

The shoemaker, who generously intended to have given him a dinner, finding he was an imposter, changed his mind, gave him a smart thrashing, and then turned him out of doors.

In order that the following story may be generally understood, it is necessary to mention, that in Scotland, the church is called kirk.

According to the custom of their kirk they have particular days, which they term examining days, (as they do not make use of the word catechise) this is for the edification of young people, who go some miles to kirk on those days.

One day, when Moggy was making black puddings, she was called

on

on by Peggy, who asked her if she would gang to kirk ; Troth, says Moggy, I canna, for life making of puddens ; ne'er heed that, lassie, replied Peggy, this is examining day, we leave the cramming of the guts till another day, and come along.

Moggy was prevailed on to go; but as it was a good way, for fear she should famish, she put one of the puddings in her bosom : but to be as concise as possible, the young people were all standing on a row, in the aisle of the kirk, when the parson began his examination.

*Parson.* Moggy, d'ye ken wha made ye ?

*Moggy.* Troth, not I.

*Parson.* Ah ! fie Mogg, there is yon wie Collin (a little boy) will tell me directly; wha made ye boy ? God.

*Parson.* There, Moggy, are ye not ashamed of your sel.

*Moggy.* Troth, not I, he was made t'other day, and easily remembers ; but I have been made a great while, and have forgot.

*Parson.* Ah ! Moggy, don ye ken  
K 3                      who

who brought you out of the land of Egypt ?

*Moggy.* Whoo't away, mon, who's been telling you sic a pack o'lies, I ne'er was there in all my life time.

*Parson.* Fie, Moggy, do ye not ken wha died for ye ?

*Moggy.* Troth, not I, Wooly Wil-son did say he would tie the lovers loop, I dinna ken he was sic a fou.

*Parson.* Ah ! Moggy, Moggy, you'll ne'er do any gued till you pull that *lump of corruption* out of your bosom.

Moggy, who till now had not once thought of the black pudding, supposing the parson meant that, immediately pulled it out and smacked it in his face, saying, here, tack it, and the muckle dee'l do you gued on't, but 'tis a hard case a poor girl canna have a pudding in her bosom, but every hungry parson must be wanting of it.

As

As many things in this book have been introduced to amuse and entertain, and fortune-telling, by various ways, to divert the fair sex, more particularly, it is imagined, the following whimsical address of *Nancy Hard to Please* will not be disagreeable to that part of the sex who are fond of innocent variety.

*Address of Miss Nancy Hard to Please.*

I do not like a man that's tall,  
 A man that's little is worse than all ;  
 I much abhor a man that's fat,  
 A man that's lean is worse than that;  
 A young man is a constant pest,  
 An old one wou'd my room infest ;  
 Nor do I like a man that's fair,  
 A man that's black; I cannot bear;  
 A man of sense, I cou'd not rule,  
 And from my heart, I hate a fool ;  
 A sober man I will not take;  
 A drunken man, my heart will break :  
 All these I do sincerely hate,  
 And yet I love the marriage state.

From the above recited little piece which abounds with wit, and delicate sentiment, an answer might be expected; therefore a gentleman of an ingenious turn of mind, and happy talents, wrote the following.

Thou lovely nymph, I doubt not of thy charms,  
 Read my description, come into my arms,  
 I am not tall or low, or fat or lean,  
 Kind Providence has plac'd me just between,

Nor

Nor young, nor old; nor black my skin, nor fair,  
 But still the middle of these aspects bear.  
 No wise or foolish things in me are seen,  
 But all my actions, still are found between;  
 Sailor nor soldier I, no blood I spill,  
 I wear a sword, but such as cannot kill;  
 Nor drunk, nor sober, yet a jug and wife  
 Are all I ask, or covet in this life;  
 In short there is no extremes to me belong,  
 But middle, middle, is my constant song.  
 Hence, charming maid, if middle be your plan,  
 Come forth, receive me, here you'll find your man.

---

### A Chronology of remarkable Occurrences, in the Year 1783.

New Island discovered in the North Sea, near the Coast of Denmark.

A great Earthquake in Italy, in which the City of Messina, the capital of the Island of Sicily, was totally destroyed, the City of Naples, and the adjacent County suffered much, and more than 40000 Souls perished.

Fiery Meteor seen in the Air, making a rapid Progress for the Space of two Minutes, August 10.

Peace with France, Spain, and America, concluded September 3.

Another Meteor seen in the Air, but not so luminous as the former, October 4.

Peace proclaimed in the Cities of London and Westminster, October 9.

An AIR BALLOON let off in the Artillery-ground, Moorfields, by Mr. Biaggini, on Tuesday, November 25.



A COLLECTION  
OF  
CHOICE AND FAVOURITE  
SONGS, &c.

---

The AIR BALLOON.

**T**HOU' miracles cease,  
Yet wonders increase,  
Imposition plays up her old tune ;  
Our old Gallie neighbours,  
Scientifical labours,  
Have invented the Air Balloon.

Chorus. Have invented, &c.

This puff'd up machine,  
Most Frenchmen have seen,  
And perhaps as a very great boon ;  
Our wide gaping isle, Sir,  
May expect in short while, Sir,  
The wonderful Air Balloon.

It will mount up on high,  
Almost to the sky,  
You may peep if you please in the moon ;  
All mathematicians,  
And deep politicians,  
Admire the Air Balloon.

A man and a hog,  
A sheep and a dog,  
It will carry aloft very soon ;  
You may view all the nations,  
Particular stations,  
If ride with the Air Balloon.

To

To walk in the sea,  
Is not new you'll agree,  
Where all you may view plain as noon ;  
But to ramble on high, Sir,  
A trip to the sky, Sir,  
Must be with the Air Balloon.

Should war 'gain break out,  
As it is not a doubt,  
With some—that it may happen soon ;  
The French will invade us,  
Their troops all parade us,  
Brought o'er in an Air Balloon.

Then ships will appear,  
Not in water but air,  
And come in a twinkling down ;  
From Calais to Dover,  
How quick they'll be over,  
Blown up with the Air Balloon.

Blood and oons then says Pat,  
But I can't believe that,  
'Tis the tale of some hum-bugging loon ;  
So I say botheration,  
To the frog-eating nation,  
Likewise to the Air Balloon.

YO YEA ; or, the FRIENDLY TARS.

**I** Sail'd in the good ship the Kitty,  
With a stiff blowing gale and rough sea ;  
Left my Polly the lass call so pretty,  
Safe here at an anchor, yo yea, &c.

She blubber'd salt tears when we parted,  
And cry'd now be constant to me ;  
told her not to be down hearted,  
So up went the anchor, yo yea.

When

When the wind whistl'd larboard and starboard,  
 And the storm came on weather and lee;  
 The hope I with her shou'd be harbour'd,  
 Was my cable and anchor, yo yea.  
 And now, my boys, wou'd you believe me,  
 I return'd with no rhino from sea;  
 Mrs. Polly wou'd never receive me,  
 So again I heav'd anchor, yo yea.

### Galloping dreary Dun.

**A** Master I have and I am his man,  
 Galloping dreary dun;  
 A master I have and I am his man, and he'll get a  
 wife as fast as he can;  
 With his haily gaily, gambo, raily, giggling, nig-  
 gling galloping galloway, draggle tail dreary  
 dun,  
 faddl'd his steed so fine and so gay,  
 Galloping dreary dun;  
 I mounted my mule and we rode away,  
 With his haily, &c.  
 We canter'd along until it grew dark,  
 Galloping dreary dun;  
 The nightingale sung instead of the lark,  
 With his haily, &c.  
 We met with a Friar, and ask'd him our way,  
 Galloping dreary dun;  
 By the Lord, says the Friar, you are both gone  
 astray,  
 With your haily, &c.  
 Our journey I fear will do us no good,  
 Galloping dreary dun;  
 We wander along like the babes in the wood,  
 With our haily, &c.  
 My master is fighting and I'll take a peep,  
 Galloping dreary dun;  
 But now I think better I'd best go to sleep,  
 With my haily, &c.

FOR

## The New Galloping dreary Dun.

**F**OR the good of my country I care not a soufe,  
 To handle the cole is the fun,  
 For the good of my country I care not a soufe,  
 For I've got a seat in the parliament house,  
 With my fairly squarely, honesty rarely, in and  
 out, round about, glittering, sweep it in,  
 To handle the cole's the fun.

When my fortune is spent, I can live by my clack,  
 To handle the cole's the fun,  
 Like sly Charly Reynard, or poor squinting Jack,  
 With my fairly, &c.

Tho' we wrangle or bully, or censure or praise,  
 To handle the cole's the fun,  
 We can join hands together, and dance y'the hayes,  
 With my fairly, &c.

Treat honour with kindness because she is poor,  
 To handle the cole's the fun,  
 She lately was shipwreck'd upon a lee shore,  
 With my fairly, &c.

What e'er your department ne'er murmur or jar,  
 To handle the cole's the fun,  
 From Chatlam's deep Pit to the famous North star,  
 With my fairly, &c.

Sell a port or a town for the sake of the fees,  
 To handle the cole's the fun,

When tir'd of war we can patch up a peace,  
 With my fairly, squarely, honesty rarely, turn-  
 about, in and out, glittering, sweep it in,  
 handle the cole's the fun.

## The CHACE.

**Y**E sportsmen draw near, ye sportswomen too,  
 Who delight in the joys of the field,  
 Mankind, though they blame, are all eager as you,  
 And no one the contest will field;

His

His lordship, his worship, his honour, his grace,  
 A hunting continually go,  
 All ranks and degrees are engag'd in the chace,  
 With hark, forward, huzza ! tally ho !

The lawyer will rise with the first of the morn,  
 To hunt for a mortgage or deed ;  
 The husband gets up at the sound of the horn,  
 And rides to the common full speed ;  
 The patriot is thrown in pursuit of his game,  
 The poet too often lays low,  
 Who mounted on Pegasus, rides after fame,  
 With hark, forward, huzza ! tally ho ! &c.

**M**Y lodging is on the cold ground,  
 And very hard is my fare,  
 But that which grieves me more, love,  
 Is the coldness of my dear.  
 Yet still he cry'd, turn, love,  
 I pray thee, love, turn to me,  
 For thou art the only girl, love,  
 That is ador'd by me.

With a garland of straw I will crown thee, love,  
 I'll marry you with a rush ring ;  
 Thy frozen heart shall melt with love,  
 So merrily I shall sing.  
 Yet still, &c.

But if you will harden your heart, love,  
 And be deaf to my pitiful moan :  
 Oh ! I must endure the smart, love,  
 And tumble in straw all alone.  
 Yet still, &c.

JOHN and JANE;

Or the Contrast after Marriage.

**S**ING the loves of John and Jane,  
Sing the loves of Jane and John;  
John for her would leave a queen  
And Jane for him the fattest don:  
She's his queen—he's her don,  
John loves Jane, and Jane loves John.

Whate'er it is that pleases Jane  
Is sure to burst the sides of John;  
Does she with grief look thin and lean,  
He instantly looks pale and wan:  
'Thin and lean—pale and wan,  
John loves Jane, and Jane loves John.

It was the lilly hand of Jane  
Fill'd the glass of happy John,  
And, heav'ns! how joyful was she seen,  
When he was for a licence gone;  
Joyful scene—they'll dance anon  
John loves Jane, and Jane loves John.

Now John has ta'en to wife his Jane,  
Jane's become the wife of John,  
She no longer is a queen,  
And he no longer is her don:  
No more queen, no more don,  
John hates Jane—and Jane hates John.

Whate'er



Whate'er it is that pleases Jane,  
 Is surely now to displease John;  
 With scolding they're grown thin and lean,  
 With spleen and spite they're pale and wan;  
 Thin and lean, pale and wan,  
 John hates Jane—and Jane hates John.

John prays heav'n to take his Jane,  
 Jane at the devil wishes John;  
 He'll dancing on her grave be seen,  
 She'll laugh when he is dead and gone:  
 Gay be seen—dead and gone,  
 John hates Jane—and Jane hates John.

#### The FOUR MISSES.

**T**O think on one's follies, sometimes, is but  
 right,  
 And reflection is good, though there's nothing got  
 by't;  
 How many ways mortals pursue after bliss,  
 But still the genteelest is keeping a *Miss*.  
 The prudent are constant to one and no more;  
 But I, like a blockhead, must dabble with four:  
 I'll tell you their names, though you'll call me a  
 rake,  
*Miss*-fortune, *Miss*-conduct, *Miss*-chance, and *Miss*-  
 take.

Four jilts so destructive, four brimstones so bad,  
 By Jove! were sufficient to drive a man mad;  
 Though jealousy oft makes the fair disagree,  
 Yet these are united in kindness to me;

In life's wanton paths they seduc'd me to stray,  
 And seem'd to spread flow'rs of delight on the way;  
 So simple was I, I'd have dy'd for the sake  
 Of *Miss*-fortune, *Miss*-conduct; *Miss*-chance, and  
*Miss*-take.

At length fair discretion, with reason combin'd,  
 Thus whisper'd advice, and it dwelt on my mind:  
 " You've surely not got 'em for better for worse;  
 " Get at once into business you'll get a divorce."  
 I thought 'twas my duty to part with 'em too,  
 Because they so long had detain'd me from you:  
 And now, I do think I shall ever forsake  
*Miss*-fortune, *Miss*-conduct, *Miss*-chance, and *Miss*-  
 take.

#### A CATCH.

'TWAS you, Sir, 'twas you, Sir,  
 I tell you nothing new, Sir,  
 'Twas you that kept from Keppel's Wake,  
 'Twas you, Sir Hugh.  
 Who Sir? Sir Hugh, Sir,  
 Vice Adm'ra' of the Blue, Sir;  
 Bold Windfor twice aloud did call,  
 To deal Sir Hugh.

'Twas he, Sir, 'twas he, Sir,  
 'Twas he that could not see, Sir;  
 Who thought the Day, the Day was Night,  
 'Twas blind Sir Hugh.  
 Oh! Sir, Oh! Sir,  
 And was it, was it so, Sir,  
 Who lagg'd a stern to Knot and Splice,  
 Do you know who.

'Twas

'Twas Pallifer, 'twas Pallifer,  
 With Dilly, Dally, Dally, Sir,  
 What Splicing, Knotting, all the while,  
 Was it so, Sir Hugh.  
 Here's a sad Dog, Sir,  
 To splice his very Log, Sir;  
 And then accuse brave Keppel, Sir,  
 But that he'll rue.

## CHORUS.

And now, Sir, rejoice, Sir,  
 With Hand and Heart and Voice, Sir;  
 From noble Keppel, Frenchmen fly?  
 Without Sir Hugh.

## R I D D L E S.

## R I D D L E I.

**T**WO fides I have, one tender wing,  
 Some other trivial parts,  
 But neither face, or arms or neck,  
 Yet often conquer hearts.

For colour like the circling bow,  
 I any sort appear;  
 And what in foreign climes is done  
 I can exhibit here.

L 3

Sometimes

Sometimes the rising sun I show,  
That gilds the Eastern hills,  
The feeding flocks, the piping swains,  
The brooks and purling rills.

At others, represent the sea,  
Where boisterous billows roll,  
And often shew the cunning wag,  
That pockets all the coal.

But you from each indecent sight,  
Ye fair I can exclude,  
And hide the virtuous glowing cheek,  
Which sounds create, too rude.

For this at first I was design'd,  
But so with me it fairs,  
That now I'm oftner much employ'd  
To grace coquetish airs.

The artful belle, t' express her scorn,  
Has readily the knack,  
When powder'd fops would demme, say,  
To grace one with a crack,

R I D D L E H.

I'M seen of different shapes and form,  
In frost and snow I can you warm,  
My colour is a glossy black,  
I'm often carried in a sack.

Then

Then straight to prison I am sent,  
When seen through bars I give content,  
Then songs of mirth and joy go round,  
Without me no feast can be found.

My goaler next to do his part,  
Does split and crack me to the heart,  
All this I bear without a groan,  
When dead I'm on a dunghill thrown.

R I D D L E III.

MY race of life is quickly run,  
I seldom see the rising sun;  
But while I live I give more light,  
Than Luna's beam that shines so bright.

I have no legs to walk or stand,  
Therefore am carried by command,  
I'm tall and strait, and cloath'd in white,  
My chiefest use is in the night.

R I D D L E IV.

I'M made of metal smooth and round,  
Through me hath happiness been found;  
For joy and comfort I impart,  
To females struck with Cupid's dart.

Many have pin'd for me in vain,  
And spent their days in tears and pain,  
Though I in bondage do them tie,  
Which never ends till they do die.

R I D D L E V.

THERE is a thing been seen to fly,  
Yet without wings amazing high!

It

It has no body, life, or foul,  
 Yet little subject to controul;  
 Of late, this made most people stare  
 To see it swimming in the air:  
 Yet if 'tis rightly understood,  
 It neither can do harm or good;  
 The French the invention of it claim,  
 Then, pr'ythee, tell me what's its name.

## RIDDLE VI.

The learned world, still my assistance claim,  
 Yet I as oft direct the lover's flame,  
 The merchant finds me useful in his way,  
 And with the lawyer oft I come in play;  
 In good and bad, alike I am employ'd,  
 And few estates without me are enjoy'd;  
 Though from a simple bird, at first I came,  
 'Tis I must give the great and good their name.

## EXPLANATION.

1. A Painted Fan.
2. A Coal.
3. A Candle.
4. A Wedding-ring.
5. An Air Balloon.
6. A Pen.



New CONUNDRUMS.

**W**HY is a poor man like a cucumber ?  
Because he is seedy.

Why is a printing-house like a post-office ?  
Because there are letters in it.

Why is a fool like a noun-substantive ?  
Because he is useless.

Why is a company of ladies at tea like a fine ring of  
bell's ?

Because their clappers go merrily.

Why is a looking glass like experience ?

Because it lets you see yourself.

Why are bed sheets enemies to truth ?

Because people lie between them.

Why is a milkman like a sailor ?

Because he gets his bread by water.

Why is a fop like a peacock ?

Because he is nothing but outside.

Why are china images like a sword worn by a  
coward ?

Because they are more for ornament than use.

Why is a painted lady like a pirate ?

Because she shews false colours.

What's that which is often heard, often felt, but  
never seen ?

Wind.

Why is a lawyer like a lion ?

Because he goes about seeking whom he may de-  
vour,

Why are the patriots like a light guinea ?

Because they want weight.

Why is a dog like a critic ?

Because he snarls.

TOASTS, SENTIMENTS,  
HOB-NOBS, &c.

**M**AY power ever continue in the friends of  
England.

The love of liberty, and liberty in love.

Great men honest, and honest men great.

Every honest man his right, and every rogue a  
halter.

Health of body, peace of mind, a clean shirt, and a  
guinea.

May he who has neither wife, mistress, or estate in  
England, never have any share in the government  
of it.

May we always be able to resist the assaults of prof-  
perity and adversity.

May we never taste the apples of affliction.

May we be rich in friends rather than money.

May we be slaves to nothing but our duty, and  
friends to nothing but merit.

May ability for doing good be equalled by incli-  
nation.

May fortune be always an attendant on virtue.

May we always have a friend, and know his value.

The agreeable rubs of life.

A head to earn, and a heart to spend.

The friend we love, and the woman we dare trust.

Provision to the unprovided.

Love without fear,

And life without care.

May the honest man never want a friend in the hour  
of distress.

May our representatives strenuously defend what  
they have wisely resolved.

Union

Union, stability, and fidelity among the sons of liberty.

Health to all honest men, and a trip-up to all scoundrels.

May all honest souls find a friend in need.

May the wings of extravagancy be clipt by the shears of œconomy.

Confusion to those, who, wearing the mask of patriotism, pull it off, and desert the cause of liberty in the day of trial.

May the friends of England ever have access to the throne.

That free men may never more be considered as property to be led to market.

The friends of Ireland in the British parliament.

The members of both houses of parliament in the river Thames, and to every honest member a cork jacket.

May our representatives, like free-masons, be elected by ballot.

May nothing ever ail us or fail us.

The ladies---standing.

May we never know sorrow but by the pame.

A lack, and a lass a day.

A high post to the enemies of Ireland.

The honest north-country smith, who refused to shoe for the man that voted against his country.

May we always detest the malice of those who attempt to disunite the interest of our king and country, which are ever inseparable.

May our conscience be sound, though our fortune be rotten.

May our distinguished mark be merit, rather than money.

Short shoes and long corns to all the enemies of Great Britain.

May our patriots all prove to be what they wish to be thought.

May Englishmen continue to be distinguished for benevolence and hospitality.

The steady friends of Britain.

## EPIGRAMS.

**A**S Chloe with affected air  
 Sat lolling in her easy chair,  
 An amorous wasp who round her flew  
 Perch'd on her lips and sip'd the dew,  
 She frowns, she frets, he makes reply  
 With love, I burn, I rage, I die.  
 She smiles, forgives, he claps his wings;  
 But soon she finds that wasps have stings.

On a LADY who vowed never to marry.

**C**HLOE abhor'd the name of wife,  
 Was very grave and stay'd,  
 Resolv'd to lead a happy life,  
 And live and die a maid:  
 Yet soon as Florio bravely try'd  
 With well-feign'd arts to win her,  
 The virgin yielded, blush'd and cry'd,  
 " I'll not be such a sinner."

F I N I S.



